

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended): A shutter providing protection from hurricane force winds of approximately 75 miles per hour to approximately 225 miles per hour comprising:

an outer frame formed by a pair of vertical members and a pair of horizontal members connected to each other and defining an interior area;

a plurality of functional horizontal louvers movably connected to said outer frame and substantially filling said interior area of said frame; ~~and~~

means for locking said louvers into a closed position;

means for holding said shutter against an external opening in a structure and over a window;

wherein said pair of horizontal members includes an upper member and a lower member, said upper horizontal member being connectable above said external opening in a structure by at least one hinge, wherein said shutter is movable about said at least one hinge; and

wherein said ~~outer frame and said louvers are made out of a material~~ shutter is resistant to hurricane force winds of approximately 75 miles per hour to approximately 225 miles per hour and said shutter protects said external opening in said structure from being damaged from said hurricane force winds wherein said damage is caused by wind force or debris being carried by said hurricane force wind.

2. (previously presented): The shutter of claim 1 wherein said louvers function by a user actuating an operating mechanism, which rotates said louvers in unison outwardly around a horizontal axis.

3. (previously presented): The shutter of claim 2 wherein said operating mechanism is at least one L-angle bracket.

4. (previously presented): The shutter of claim 2 wherein said operating mechanism is a vertical sliding mechanism on a backside of at least one of said vertical members of said outer frame.
5. (previously presented): The shutter of claim 2 wherein said operating mechanism is a bar extending vertically across said louvers.
6. (previously presented): The shutter of claim 2 wherein said operating mechanism is a winding crank mechanism.
7. (canceled)
8. (currently amended): The shutter of claim ~~7~~1 wherein said means for locking said louvers into a closed position is a mechanism on a backside of at least one of said vertical members of said outer frame.
9. (currently amended): The shutter of claim ~~7~~1 wherein said means for locking said louvers into a closed position is at least one L-angle bracket.
10. (previously presented): The shutter of claim 1 wherein said louvers interlock horizontally with each other when said louvers are in a closed position.
11. (currently amended): The shutter of claim 1 wherein said shutter is composed of ~~material resistant to hurricane force winds~~ is aluminum.
12. (currently amended): The shutter of claim 1 wherein said shutter is composed of ~~material resistant to hurricane force winds~~ is polycarbonate.
13. (currently amended): The shutter of claim 1 wherein said shutter is composed of ~~material resistant to hurricane force winds~~ is high density plastic with foam reinforcement.

14. (canceled)

15. (currently amended): The shutter of claim ~~14~~1, wherein said means for holding said shutter against said opening is at least one L-angle bracket.

16. (currently amended): The shutter of claim ~~14~~1, wherein said means for holding said shutter against said opening is a Z bar.

17. (currently amended): The shutter of claim ~~14~~1, wherein said means for holding said shutter against said opening are predrilled holes through an outer frame which are anchored by bolts to a structure near said opening.

18. (canceled)

19. (currently amended): The shutter of claim ~~18~~1 further including means for holding said lower horizontal member of said shutter apart from said structure.

20. (currently amended): The shutter of claim ~~18~~1, wherein said means for holding said lower horizontal member of said shutter is a telescoping arm.

21. (currently amended): A shutter for protecting external openings in a building from hurricane force winds of approximately 75 miles per hour to approximately 225 miles per hour comprising:

an outer frame formed by a pair of vertical members and a pair of horizontal members connected to each other and defining an interior area;

at least one hinge wherein said at least one hinge connects said outer frame to said building adjacent to said external opening and wherein said shutter is movable about said at least one hinge;

a plurality of functional horizontal louvers movably connected to said outer frame and substantially filling said interior area of said frame; ~~and~~

wherein said ~~outer frame and said louvers are made out of a material~~ shutter is resistant to hurricane force winds of approximately 75 miles per hour to approximately 225 miles per hour and said shutter protects said external opening in said structure from being damaged from said hurricane force winds wherein said damage is caused by wind force or debris being carried by said hurricane force wind;

means for locking said louvers into a closed position; and

means for holding said shutter apart from said structure.

22. (previously presented): The shutter of claim 21 wherein said louvers function by a user actuating an operating mechanism, which rotates said louvers in unison outwardly around a horizontal axis.
23. (previously presented): The shutter of claim 22 wherein said operating mechanism is at least one L-angle bracket.
24. (previously presented): The shutter of claim 22 wherein said operating mechanism is a vertical sliding mechanism on a backside of at least one of said vertical members of said outer frame.
25. (previously presented): The shutter of claim 22 wherein said operating mechanism is a bar extending vertically across said louvers.
26. (previously presented): The shutter of claim 22 wherein said operating mechanism is a winding crank mechanism.
27. (canceled)
28. (currently amended): The shutter of claim ~~27~~21 wherein said means for locking said louvers into a closed position is a mechanism on a backside of at least one of said vertical members of said outer frame.

29. (currently amended): The shutter of claim ~~27~~21 wherein said means for locking said louvers into a closed position is at least one L-angle bracket.
30. (previously presented): The shutter of claim 21 wherein said louvers interlock horizontally with each other when said louvers are in a closed position.
31. (previously presented): The shutter of claim 21 wherein said louvers interlock horizontally with each other when said louvers are in a closed position and pressure is applied to said louvers.
32. (currently amended): The shutter of claim 21 wherein said shutter is composed of ~~material resistant to hurricane force winds~~ is aluminum.
33. (currently amended): The shutter of claim 21 wherein said shutter is composed of ~~material resistant to hurricane force winds~~ is polycarbonate.
34. (currently amended): The shutter of claim 21 wherein said shutter is composed of ~~material resistant to hurricane force winds~~ is high density plastic with foam reinforcement.
35. (canceled)
36. (canceled)
37. (previously presented): The shutter of claim 21, further including a telescoping arm to hold said lower horizontal member of said shutter apart from said structure.
38. (currently amended): A hurricane shutter comprising:
an outer frame forming an interior area,

a plurality of louvers extending horizontally across said interior area,
an upper horizontal member and a lower horizontal member, said upper horizontal member being connectable above an external opening in a structure by at least one hinge, wherein said shutter is movable about said at least one hinge;

at least one L-angle bracket movably connected ~~between two of~~ to said louvers such that said L-angle bracket lies perpendicular to said louvers,

wherein said L-angle bracket functions to actuate said louvers, lock said louvers in a closed position and hold said shutter against a window, ~~and~~

wherein said louvers each contain a hook-type structure on each horizontal edge of said louver and wherein said hooks face in opposite directions on each louver whereby said louvers interlock horizontally with each other when said louvers are in a closed position, and

wherein said ~~outer frame and said louvers are made of a material~~ shutter is resistant to hurricane force winds of approximately 75 miles per hour to approximately 225 miles per hour and said shutter protects said window from being damaged from said hurricane force winds wherein said damage is caused by wind force or debris being carried by said hurricane force wind.

39. (canceled)

40. (currently amended): The shutter of claim 38 wherein said shutter is composed of ~~material resistant to hurricane force winds is~~ aluminum.

41. (currently amended): The shutter of claim 38 wherein said shutter is composed of ~~material resistant to hurricane force winds is~~ polycarbonate.

42. (currently amended): The shutter of claim 38 wherein said shutter is composed of ~~material resistant to hurricane force winds is~~ high density plastic with foam reinforcement.

43. (canceled)

44. (currently amended): The shutter of claim ~~43~~38 further including means for holding said lower horizontal member of said shutter apart from said structure.

45. (currently amended): The shutter of claim ~~43~~38, wherein said means for holding said lower horizontal member of said shutter is a telescoping arm.

46. (new): The shutter of claim 38 wherein said shutter is composed of fiberglass.

47. (new): The shutter of claim 38 wherein said shutter is composed of steel.